

New York, 12 April, 1861.

Dear Garrison,

I enclose a letter, this moment received, from Mr. D. Conway, from which you will see that he can't come to the New York Anniversary, but would like an opportunity to speak in Boston, at the N. E. Convention. Pray give the matter your attention, & if the good cause can be <sup>thus</sup> promoted, comply with his wish.

Our papers contain extracts from W. R.'s speech at

New Bedford, which <sup>is</sup> somewhat  
surprise me; ~~though~~ <sup>perhaps</sup> when  
I see the whole speech, they  
may make a different im-  
pression. I am sure he's  
mistaken, if he supposes the  
demonstrations at Fort Sumter  
are a part of Seward's plan  
to bring about compre-  
mise. I believe, on the con-  
trary, that Seward's earlier  
policy has been deliberately  
set aside by the President  
and Cabinet, and that he  
(Seward) has been constrained  
and overruled. And it does

seen to me a thousand times better,  
or rather not a thousandth part  
so bad, to fight the rebels,  
and thus show some measure  
of pluck, than to go on as  
the Administration was ap-  
parently going before this  
demonstration was made.

Nor does it seem to me that  
the feelings likely to be excited  
by the beginning of a war will  
tend toward compromise,  
on the contrary, I think the  
effect will be to make a  
reconstruction impossible.

But my judgment may  
be different when I get a clearer  
view of events.

Your reply to the Bugle  
is a denunciation. It does seem to me  
that that paper evinces a sin-  
gular lack of common sense.

Yours, cordially,  
J. Johnson.